2. The Myanmar authorities had sought a flag meeting between high authorities of the two countries. Government responded promptly as soon as the incident was reported and in pursuance of the Myanmar Government's request a meeting was held on 15th Oct., between senior Government officials of the two countries. The State Government of Manipur have instructed the District Administration to investigate the case so as to bring the culprits to book if they are on Indian soil and to ensure maintenance of peace and tranquility in the area.

3. Government are committed to ensuring that there is peace and normalcy and that border trade between India and Myanmar is allowed to continue uninterrupted.

Foreign Militants

*18. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign militants operating in the Kashmir Valley have now established their new bases in the outskirts of Srinagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of clashes which took place between the security forces and the foreign millitants since their concentration in the outskirts of Srinagar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) tc (c) As per available reports, no new bases of foreign militants, have been established in the outskirts of Srinagar. The security forces are however vigilant and are taking all necessary steps to contain the activities of militants/foreign militants in J&K including Srinagar and its outskirts. It is not possible to indicate the precise number of clashes between the Security Forces and the foreign militants exclusively, yet the number of foreign militants arrested or killed from January, 1990 to Sept., 1997 is 136 and 645 respectively.

[Translation]

MPLADS

19. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that works under the MPLAD Scheme are being got done by District Magistrates without the approval of concerned Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details of such cases which have been brought to the notice of the Union Government during the last two years along with the name of the constituencies where these works have been got done; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against those who are responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) and (b) Three cases of work reportedly got done by the District Heads of Jalandhar, Morena and Mirzapur without the recomendation of the concerned Member of Parliament have been brought to the notice of the Govt.

(c) The matter has been taken up with the State Governments and collectors concerned for appropriate action.

Population Control

*20. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many States such as Uttar Pradesh have failed to control population inspite of spending million of rupees on Family Planning Programmes;

(b) whether ambitious schemes have been started with the assistance from the Union Government and foreign agencies during the last two years but these proved flop in controlling population; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial steps being taken by the Union government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) The National Family Welfare Programme has been able to achieve significant reduction in Birth Rate in the country as a whole. The Birth Rate in the country declined from 41.7 per thousand in 1951-61 to 27.4 in 1996. The progress has, however, been uneven, with States like Uttar Pradesh (Birth Rae 34.0 in 1996), Bihar (32.1), Rajasthan (32.3) and Madhya Pradesh (32.4) still having a high Birth Rate.

(b) and (c) In 1996-97 and 1997-98, the following externally assisted projects/programmes were started:—

Sl. No.	Name of Project or Programme	Date of commencement or approval	Location (State)
1.	Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme.	15.10.97	All India
2.	DANIDA assisted Phase-III Project.	23.08.97	Tamil Nadu
3.	ODA (UK) assisted Phase-III Project (Stage I).	05.09.97	Orissa
4.	UNFPA assisted Pilot Projects at district level for Reproductive Health.	16.06.97	Bihar, H.P., Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan.
5.	ODA (UK) assisted Reproductive Health Project.	04.11.96	West Bengal.
6.	German assisted Basic Health Project	20.05.96	Maharashtra
7.	Pulse Polio Immunisation	December '95	All India

Population is controlled in the short run by use of contraceptives and terminal methods to avoid unwanted pregnancies, and in the medium and long-term by improving the reproductive and child health status of families. Accordingly the Programme for controlling population aims at regular and reliable supply of contraceptives and efficient arrangements for sterilisation in the former category and making available obstetric and maternal care as well as measures for children's health, in the latter category.

The VIII Plan had envisaged the growth rate of population to come down to 1.78 percent per annum. It has actually come down to 1.85 percent in 1996. The data from the Sample Registration System (SRS) shows that the drop in birth rate has been higher in 1996 than in previous years. The limiting factors are:—

(i) Limited availability of resources for the Family Welfare Programme;

(ii) Only modest publicity stated support for the programme by the opinion leaders and by the public;

(iii) Varying level of efficiency of State health set ups in various States in regard to implementation;

(iv) Literacy/education status of families and women's status in the community.

The Government is striving to remove these handicaps and improve the positive influence of these factors.

[English]

Privatisation of Power Projects in Andhra Pradesh

1. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have identified some Power projects of the State for immediate private investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;